

HONG KONG REVIEW

October 2010

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London



Left: Hong Kong's Legislative Council building.

LEGCO PASSES CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PACKAGE

Hong Kong's Legislative Council (LegCo) has approved the Government's proposals for constitutional reform to begin in 2012.

Measures passed by the LegCo of the Hong Kong SAR have paved the way for key changes to be made to the elections to appoint the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council.

The measures were passed by a three-quarters majority of the LegCo. Among the measures in the package, the number of members of the

election committee, which elects the Chief Executive, will increase from 800 to 1,200, and will increase the number of LegCo seats from 60 to 70.

Donald Tsang, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR Government, said the passage of reform was a valuable experience for the Government, the political parties and people in the implementation of Basic Law, adding it was a "triumph of 'One Country, Two Systems' arrangement".

Mr Tsang added: "The 2010 constitutional reform package

does not only improve our electoral system, it also lays a solid foundation for the community to pursue detailed arrangements for universal suffrage according to the established timetable."

In the LegCo reforms, candidates for five new functional constituency seats will be nominated by elected District Council members. In turn, the District Council members will be elected by all registered voters who currently don't have a right to vote in functional constituencies on a one-person-one-vote basis. Under the proposal, every voter will have two votes in the 2012 LegCo election; one for geographical constituency and the other for functional constituencies.

Just recently the Government has outlined the proposed arrangements for the two 2012 elections to the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs, and plans to introduce the relevant Bills to LegCo shortly.

Mr Tsang says the measures also mark a major milestone towards establishing universal suffrage of the elections of the Chief Executive in 2017 and the Legislature in 2020.

Business

Chief Executive leads business delegation to Moscow

The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang led a high-powered business delegation to Moscow between 31 August and 2 September to strengthen co-operation with Russia.

The visit coincided with a series of special 'Hong Kong in Moscow' activities in the business, culture and tourism sectors. The 30-strong business delegation was joined by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, and included Chairman of the Hong



Above: The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, met the President of the Russian Federation, Mr Dmitry Medvedev, in Moscow on the first day of his visit.

Kong Stock Exchange Mr Ronald Arculli; Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission, Mr Eddy Fong; and Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Banks, Mr Benjamin Hung.

As well as meetings with the Russian President Mr Dmitry Medvedev and senior officials



Hong Kong harbour at night: our economic success story p06



Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Building on course for 2013 opening p07



Hong Kong films in Moscow: Echoes of the Rainbow p08

CONTINUED

●●● Business

CHIEF EXECUTIVE HEADS DELEGATION TO MOSCOW cont.



Above: During his visit, the Chief Executive officiated at the launch of Hong Kong Tourism Board's Festive Hong Kong Week in Moscow.



Left: Mr Tsang attended Cathay Pacific's inaugural flight dinner.

and business leaders, Mr Tsang helped promote tourism to Hong Kong, and celebrated Cathay Pacific Airways' first direct passenger flights between Hong Kong and Moscow. He also addressed a business seminar organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Invest Hong Kong.

31 August

Beginning his visit, Mr Tsang called on Russian President, Mr Dmitry Medvedev, and discussed how Russian businessmen could take advantage of Hong Kong's unique strengths and the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) to tap the mainland market.

Both Mr Tsang and Mr Medvedev saw great room for co-operation in academic and cultural exchanges, and in information technology and environmental engineering, and Mr Tsang invited Mr Medvedev to lead a delegation to

Right: The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, met the President of the Russian Federation, Mr Dmitry Medvedev, in Moscow on 31 August.



Hong Kong in the near future.

Later, Mr Tsang launched 'Festive Hong Kong Week' at a popular shopping mall to promote tourism in Hong Kong among Russian families.

1 September

Mr Tsang started his second day with a breakfast meeting with the Chairman of the Russian-Chinese Business Council, Boris Titov and senior executives from several top Russian companies.

Later, Mr Tsang separately met the Russian Minister for Economic Development, Ms Elvira Nabiullina and the First Vice-Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Mrs Svetlana Orlova. Both Ms Nabiullina and Mrs Orlova agreed that there was tremendous potential for closer co-operation between Russia and Hong Kong in strategic areas including financial, clean energy and information technology.

In the afternoon, Mr Tsang and members of the delegation called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Alexei Kudrin. Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of a comprehensive agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

Mr Tsang and Prof KC Chan also met with the top management of several Russian enterprises specialising in banking, aluminium production, freight and investment to understand their intention and plans to be listed in Hong Kong.

In an evening event Mr Tsang as guest of honour at the launch of Cathay Pacific's direct passenger flights between Hong Kong and Moscow.

2 September

On his final day Mr Tsang led the Hong Kong business delegation to meet with the then Mayor of Moscow Mr Yuri Luzhukov, and spoke at the business seminar 'Hong Kong: Your Asian Connection,' organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Invest Hong Kong.

Below: The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, led the Hong Kong business delegation to meet the Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr Alexei Kudrin (2nd left).



Above: The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, meeting the media with Governor Sergey Darkin (left) after a bilateral meeting in Vladivostok.



Above: With the business delegation at Vladivostok station terminus for the Trans-Siberian railway.

●●● Business

Focus on Russian Far East

Financial Secretary, John C Tsang recently led a high-level business delegation to Vladivostok to explore business opportunities with the Far East of Russia.

The delegation comprised of more than 30 members from Hong Kong's professional, financial, banking and logistics sectors as well as hotel and manufacturing, all seeking ways of doing business with the region.

During their visit the members of the delegation met the Governor of Primorsky Territory, Mr Sergey Darkin, and the Mayor of Vladivostok, Mr Igor Uleiskiy. They also visited the ambitious development for Russky Island, a major construction project in preparation for the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Leaders Summit to be held in Vladivostok in 2012. As well as a

massive conference venue the project will link the island to the city via a 3km bridge.

At a business seminar organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council Mr Tsang highlighted the increasingly strong ties between Russia and Hong Kong, and particularly the benefits for Russian companies of listing in Hong Kong. In January, UC Rusal became the first Russian company to list in Hong Kong and it's believed other Russian firms are ready to follow.

Mr Tsang said: "Our well-developed financial services sector makes Hong Kong a natural listing platform for Russian firms."

Hong Kong's stock market, he added, is the third largest in Asia and seventh largest in the world by market capitalisation.

●●● Business

Fact-finding visit to Oslo



Left: The Secretary for Development, Mrs Carrie Lam, visits the Water Treatment Plant, Oslo, located in a mountain cavern.

Secretary for Development, Mrs Carrie Lam visited Norway and the UK on a fact-finding visit.



Below left: Secretary for Development Mrs Carrie Lam speaks at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London.

For her visit to Oslo, accompanied by officials from the Development Bureau, the Planning Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department, Mrs Lam obtained first-hand information and experience on the city's use of underground space.

Mrs Lam visited a number of outstanding examples of Oslo's use of underground space, including the Water Treatment Plant, the National Archives and the District Heating and Cooling Plant.

In the UK, accompanied by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), Mr Wai Chi-sing, Mrs Lam spoke to practitioners in the UK construction industry at a reception hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London. She urged the industry to participate in Hong Kong's ten major infrastructure projects. Among other meetings in London, she also visited the Olympic Delivery Authority to hear about the project management of the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Right: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, spoke at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum 2010. Beside him is Ms Christine Lagarde, Minister for Economy, Industry and Employment of France.

●●● Business

Global issues discussed in UK and Russia visits

Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Professor K C Chan visited St Petersburg to promote Hong Kong as an international financial centre.

Professor Chan attended the St Petersburg International Economic Forum, and spoke at the panel session "Global Economy – Managing Sovereign Debt". Calling on governments to undertake business-friendly regulatory reform and improve labour market flexibility to enhance productivity and capacity to promote growth, Professor Chan noted that the recent debt crisis has prompted European Union leaders to commit to reforms in this direction.

In London, Professor Chan signed a comprehensive agreement for the avoidance of double taxation (CDTA) with the UK Government.

Professor Chan also spoke at a Chatham House seminar on 'Hong Kong – Gateway to the China Opportunity', discussing Hong Kong's role in supporting the development strategy of mainland China.



● For further details of the Hong Kong/UK CDTA, visit www.ird.gov.hk/eng/pdf/Agreement_UK_HongKong.pdf

●●● Economic Development

CEPA VII BOOSTS TRADE WITH MAINLAND

Earlier this year, the Hong Kong Government and the Central People's Government agreed on further services liberalisation and trade co-operation.

The measures were introduced under Supplement VII in the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

Supplement VII provides for 35 market liberalisation and trade and investment facilitation measures in 19 sectors. Among them, 27 are liberalisation measures in 14 service sectors, of which eight are measures for 'early and pilot implementation'.

The 14 sectors benefitting from the liberalisation measures are: construction; medical services; technical testing, analysis and product testing; specialty design;

audiovisual services; distribution; banking; securities; social services; tourism; cultural services; air transport; qualification examinations for professionals and technicians; and individually owned stores. This brings the total number of liberalised service sectors under CEPA from 42 to 44.

Examples of liberalisation measures include:

Hong Kong service suppliers being allowed to set up wholly-owned hospitals in certain cities and provinces; relaxing the rules on companies and professionals in several sectors to operate in the mainland; allowing Hong Kong testing bodies to test and certify certain mainland products; and making it possible for Hong Kong banks to set up wholly-owned branches and offer Renminbi services.

● For more details, visit www.tid.gov.hk/english/cepa/index.html

●●● Economic Development

Wine and dine in Hong Kong



Food and drink aficionados from around the world will come together in Hong Kong during November for a blend of wine, spirit and culinary events in the Hong Kong Tourism Board's 2nd Annual Hong Kong Wine and Dine Month.

Highlight of the month is the Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits Fair from 4-6 November 2010. The three-day event will be located at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and will feature exhibitors from wine producers from all over the world. This year, Australia is the fair's partner country, the first year a 'New World' wine-producing country has held the

honour.

It includes the Wine Industry Conference. There will also be the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits competition.

The event will underline Hong Kong's position as a wine hub for Asia, with the city being the world's second largest centre for wine auctions after New York, having recently overtaken London. Last year, 33% of all wine exports from Hong Kong were destined for mainland China.

Kicking off the month-long series of events, the annual Wine and Dine Festival at the end of October attracted more than 111,000 people.

● For further information, visit www.discoverhongkong.com/festivehk2010

●●● International



Above: The picture shows the Secretary for Food and Health, Dr York Chow, meeting the Minister of Social Affairs, Mr Hanno Pevkur.

European visit explores food and health issues

Hong Kong's Secretary for Food and Health, Dr York Chow visited Estonia and the UK earlier this year to examine aspects of electronic healthcare solutions and food safety. This was part of a major European tour, including Germany and the Netherlands, which included attending the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Dr Chow's two-day visit to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, saw him call on the Estonian Social Affairs Minister Hanno Pevkur, and the Estonian e-Health Foundation.

While in London, he visited Sainsbury's, the third-largest supermarket chain in the UK, to gain an understanding of its food safety system, while also meeting with representatives at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency to discuss avian and swine influenza control.

A few weeks later, Under-Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Gabriel Leung, visited London to examine the UK's approach to primary care reform and GP's development, meeting with organisations including the Department of Health and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.



●●● International

UK universities endorse New Academic Structure

Some of the UK's leading universities have given a very positive response to Hong Kong's New Academic Structure (NAS) following a visit to the UK by Permanent Secretary for Education, Mr Raymond H C Wong. The NAS is a radical development in the Hong Kong education system to meet the needs of students in an era of globalisation and knowledge-based economies, leading to a new secondary qualification: the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE).

In June, Mr Wong led a higher education delegation to the UK, holding meetings with key admissions officials from 10 leading institutions,



to promote the NAS and the HKDSE.

The universities confirmed that they are considering positively the possibility of admitting Hong Kong students completing the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) for direct entry to their three year undergraduate programmes from 2012.

During the visit Mr Wong also took the chance to discuss the implementation of education reforms with the UK Permanent Secretary for Education, Mr David Bell.

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●●● International

Visit focuses on high-speed rail systems

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Ms Eva Cheng visited London on 31 August to 2 September to study the UK experience in retirement housing and high-speed rail development.

She visited the recently renovated St Pancras International Station and called on the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Philip Hammond. She also met companies involved in the UK's high-speed rail projects: the existing Channel Tunnel Rail Link; and the proposed high-speed network linking London to Manchester and Leeds.



Right: The Hon Chief Justice, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, taking the Judicial Oath administered by the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang on 3 September.

Left: The Permanent Secretary for Education, Mr Raymond H C Wong, meeting the British Permanent Secretary for Education, Mr David Bell.

Left: Customer Service Manager of St Pancras International, Ms Melanie Fullerton, briefs Secretary for Transport and Housing Ms Eva Cheng on the recently renovated station.

●●● Judiciary

HONG KONG'S NEW CHIEF JUSTICE SWORN IN

Hong Kong's new Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li took office in September following a swearing-in ceremony at Government House. The Chief Justice took the official oath which was administered by the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang.

Chief Justice Ma gave a commitment to uphold the Basic Law and to serve Hong Kong conscientiously, dutifully, in full accordance with the law, honestly and with integrity.

He also pledged to bear allegiance to Hong Kong, safeguard the law and administer justice without fear or favour, self-interest or deceit.

Donald Tsang said: "Chief Justice Ma has rich judicial experience. As Chief Judge of the High Court, his outstanding performance was well recognised. I have every confidence that Chief Justice



Ma will excel in his new job." The Chief Justice said that it was a great honour and privilege to serve the people of Hong Kong in this role, and that he would do his best to safeguard the rule of law and maintain the independence of the judiciary. He added that he was looking forward greatly to this new chapter in his life.

●●● International

Innovation to the fore in Denmark visit

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Rita Lau, visited Copenhagen, Denmark for a briefing by Oresund Science Region and Medicon Valley.

She visited the Danish Design Centre, and met with the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Ms Charlotte Sahl-Madsen.

The Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

(CIT), Ms Janet Wong and the Chairman of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park, Mr Nicholas Brooke continued the visit in Denmark and Sweden. They visited the University of Copenhagen to study the latest technology of carbon-neutral buildings, and gave keynote speeches at the 'Oresund - Hong Kong, InnoTech ChinaBiz Summit' in Copenhagen. CIT and Mr Brook also attended the launch of a pilot scheme where MyCar electric cars - developed in Hong Kong - would operate in Bornholm, Denmark.



Left: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Ms Rita Lau meets Danish Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Ms Charlotte Sahl-Madsen.

●●● Economic Development

ACHIEVING NEW HEIGHTS

From tourism to commerce, Hong Kong's position as a leading economic powerhouse in Asia has been reinforced by a number of key developments:

InvestHK marks 10th anniversary with 2,000th investment

Since it was created in 2000, InvestHK has now helped more than 2,000 companies to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong. It passed that milestone in June with the arrival of Start Asia, an integrated branding consultancy from the UK. Over the past decade, companies helped by InvestHK have created more than 25,000 new jobs in the first year of operation or expansion and brought in more than HK\$52 billion of investment.

At the same time, InvestHK announced that more than 170 foreign companies established themselves or expanded their operations in Hong Kong during the first half of the year. According to Hong Kong Chief Executive Mr Donald Tsang, they have been attracted by a number of initiatives, including: the growing network of double taxation agreements, the Renminbi Trade Settlement scheme with mainland China; and the development of six new growth industries where Hong Kong has clear advantages. In June, Invest Hong Kong completed its 2,000th investment project since it was established in July 2000; helping UK-based Start Asia open a facility in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's success is endorsed by the United Nations – in its World Investment Report 2010, the city has climbed from ninth to fourth position.

Hong Kong's rise in the ranks to fourth position represents a share of 21% of all Asia's FDI – making it second in the region after China and first in terms of FDI stock, with a majority share of 37%.

● For more information, visit www.investhk.gov.hk and www.unctad.org



International endorsements

Hong Kong's approach to business has been further endorsed by international surveys.

- According to the Global Financial Centres Index, published by international consultancy Z/Yen Group, Hong Kong has clearly joined London and New York as one of the 'Big Three' Global Financial Centres, and is rapidly closing the gap on New York.
- The World Economic Forum's Global Enabling Trade Report 2010 puts Hong Kong second out of 125 global economies in terms of its openness to international trade and investment. The report ranks Hong Kong first in many indicators, including the efficiency of the financial market and its openness to foreign participation.
- The latest 'Economic Freedom of the World' report from Canadian research group the Fraser Institute shows that Hong Kong has held onto its position as the freest economy in the world. The Institute compares the level of economic freedom in 141 economies and apart from attaining top overall ranking, Hong Kong ranks first in both "size of government" and "freedom to trade internationally."

● For more information, visit www.weforum.org, www.zyen.com and www.freetheworld.com

Sky-high performance for Hong Kong International Airport

It's official: Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is the world's leading airport. For the fourth year running, the title of world's best airport among facilities serving more than 40 million passengers was bestowed upon HKIA by the Airports Council International. The survey interviewed over 275,000 passengers at 118 airports, and



Above: Inside The Hong Kong International Airport Terminal.

more than 98% of passengers rating HKIA as either excellent or very good.

The Air Transport Research Society also named HKIA as the most efficient airport in Asia-Pacific. It was also the fourth consecutive year the airport had received the honour.

Passenger and cargo numbers have also been soaring. During the last six months, the airport has increased the amount of air cargo it handled by 35.1% to two million tonnes, with aircraft movements also increasing by 4.9% over 12 months. Passenger traffic is also up, with an increase of 9.3% for the last six months.

Competition Bill moves forward

Hong Kong's commitment to a free and open business environment has been underlined by progress made in introducing the Government's Competition Bill. The Bill will enhance economic efficiency and the free flow of trade by promoting sustainable competition. Measures to be implemented include the establishment of a statutory Competition Commission and a Competition Tribunal within the judiciary.

Tourism breaks all records

A record 16 million visitors arrived in Hong Kong in the first six months of 2010.

Figures released by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) show that visitor arrivals during the first six months of 2010 have been the best on record. The figure not only represents a year-on-year increase of 23.1% but also a significant increase in key markets such as mainland China with 10 million visitors (an increase of 26.9%) and emerging markets such as Russia, with a massive 134% increase.

HKTb predicts a similarly successful end to 2010, with visitor numbers likely to further increase by up to 25% by the end of the year.

●●● Culture

Hong Kong dragons on the Thames



Above: Thirty-three dragon boat teams competed in the Dragon Boat Festival.

Thousands of people flocked to London's Docklands on 27 June to witness one of the city's most unique sporting and cultural spectacles, the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival.

Thirty-three dragon boat teams competed in the Festival races. A series of cultural events also took place including lion dancing, dragons, kite-flying and live music with food and market stalls on offer.

Proceeds from the event went to local Chinese community groups and the event was sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London, and Ms Sarah Wu, the then Director General of the HKETO, London, officiated.

● For further information, visit www.lclc.co.uk



Right: The Hong Kong Police Band enthralled Shanghai Expo visitors with a mix of music and singing during its highly popular performance at the Shanghai Expo Park's Celebration Square during Hong Kong Week.

●●● Culture

Reasons to celebrate at Shanghai Expo

Over three million visitors witness myriad events and activities

The Hong Kong Pavilion and Hong Kong's Urban Best Practices Area (UBPA) Exhibition at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai have reported an extraordinarily successful run.

Among other achievements, total visitor numbers have now topped the one million mark. Since the Expo opened on 1 May, the Pavilion has received more than 10,000 visitors a day and the Exhibition about 8,000. At the close of the Expo, total visitor numbers to the Hong Kong Exhibits exceeded three million.

Hong Kong's display during the Expo included more than 60 events and activities involving some 100 performances and four visual arts exhibitions. A highlight was Hong Kong Week in late October, which featured a dazzling array of performances and activities to highlight Hong Kong's creativity, vibrancy and cosmopolitan city life.

The daily performances, featuring many of Hong Kong's top artists, entertainers and artistic groups and covering music, dance, Cantonese opera, film, fashion, design, art and smart card technology, attracted more than 200,000 visitors.

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Henry Tang, who headed Hong Kong's Expo participation, said: "I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all individuals and organisations involved in the planning and execution of Hong Kong's participation in Shanghai Expo for a great job done."

● For more on Hong Kong in Shanghai Expo, visit: www.hkexpo2010.gov.hk



●●● Economic Development

HONG KONG TO BECOME MAJOR CRUISE HUB BY 2013

In May, the Government signed a design-and-build contract with Dragages Hong Kong Limited for the development of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Building.

Mr John C Tsang, Financial Secretary, speaking at the contract signing ceremony, said Hong Kong possessed all the significant attributes to develop into a major cruise hub in the region, and it was well-positioned to benefit from the growth of the Asia Pacific cruise market.

"It will also provide another landmark to grace our spectacular harbour and welcome visitors from around the globe," Mr Tsang added.



Above: The Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Building will be completed in 2013.

The signing of the contract by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), Mr Mak Chai-kuang, and the Managing Director of Dragages Hong Kong Limited, Mr Nicolas Borit will propel the works of the cruise terminal building ahead at full steam. The building will be completed in 2013 – a year ahead of the original schedule – to provide world-class services to cruise passengers.

The new cruise terminal building will enable world-class services adhering to the highest level of environmental sustainability. It will be well equipped with facilities to accommodate the berthing of two mega cruise vessels concurrently, and will provide flexibility for conversion of the cruise terminal operation area into other uses during the non-peak season.

The first berth will be commissioned mid 2013.

●●● Culture



Vibrant Hong Kong through the lens

Hong Kong's vibrant film industry held its first ever event in Russia when it staged 'Hong Kong View – new films from Hong Kong', in Moscow during the first week of September.

Hosted in Moscow's city-centre art house venue, 35mm Cinema, five films were screened at the festival, which was sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London and organised by local film group CoolConnections.

The gala opening featured Echoes of the Rainbow, which was awarded the Crystal Bear for the Best Feature Film in the Generation section of the 2010 Berlin Film Festival.

Following the screening, the film's producer and director Ms Mabel Cheung and Mr Alex Law participated in a special question and answer session. Cheung and Law were able to attend the festival thanks to sponsorship from Cathay Pacific.

Other films screened at the festival included Night and Fog, Claustrophobia, Love in a Puff and Written By.

A photo exhibition on Hong Kong was held in the foyer of the 35mm Cinema venue.



Above: Mr Alex Law (third right) and Ms Mabel Cheung (fourth right) after the gala screening of Echoes of the Rainbow with new Director General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London, Mrs Agnes Allcock (2nd right) and retiring Director General Ms Sarah Wu (second left).

●●● Culture

Culture shock – classical piano meets heavy metal bass in Gothenburg

A concert hall in Gothenburg, Sweden, rocked to a unique sound last month courtesy of the Royal Sweden Hong Kong Business Council and the Hong Kong Economic Trade Office, London.

The concert featured Hong Kong concert pianist Ms Colleen Lee and Swedish rock bass guitarist Mr Magnus Rosén, who formerly played with heavy metal band Hammerfall. Ms Lee has been featured at music festivals in Poland, Italy, Germany, the United States, and China. Mr Rosén, performs with both the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and groups mixing classic and rock music.



Above: Ms Colleen Lee and Mr Magnus Rosén performing in Gothenburg.

New Director General to represent HK

Mrs Agnes Allcock, JP (HK) has been appointed the new Director General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London, replacing the retired Director General, Ms Sarah Wu. Mrs Allcock has served in the Hong Kong civil service since 1974 and was most recently the Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service, a post she held since 2009.



Above: Mrs Agnes Allcock.

As the chief representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in London, Mrs Allcock will play a key role in bilateral relations between the UK and Hong Kong, as well as with the eight other countries under the London Office's purview: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia and Sweden. Mrs Allcock said: "I look forward to helping to build upon our long-standing economic, business and cultural ties with the many countries this office is responsible for." In her valedictory message, Ms Wu said: "I am very honoured to have spent such a busy time in London over the past nearly four and a half years. It has been my pleasure to work with colleagues to come up with new initiatives in the areas of business, music, arts, film and sports to strengthen the links between us."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

29 Nov – 4 Dec 2010
Business of Design Week 2010, Hong Kong

17 – 18 Jan 2011
Asia Financial Forum, Hong Kong

6 Feb 2011
Hong Kong in London Chinatown – London Chinese New Year Celebration

8 Feb 2011
HKTDC Seminar in Birmingham

10 Feb 2011
HKTDC Seminar in Manchester

Feb – March 2011
Chinese New Year events:
7 Feb – London
14 Feb – Stockholm
15 Feb – Oslo
24 Feb – Helsinki
25 Feb – Copenhagen
3 Mar – Moscow

2 Mar 2011
HKTDC Seminar in Bristol

9 Mar 2011
HKTDC Seminar in Leeds